

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action of February 5, 2008, has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, and 12 have been amended, claims 13, 14, 20, 25, 26, 28, and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 31-39 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 27, and 30-39 are pending in this application upon entry of the present amendment. Entry of the amendments, reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11-14, 20, 25, 27, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,601 (Ohkura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,943 (Clark, Jr.). Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 recites, “displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs.” In contrast, none of the cited references teaches or suggests a programming content slider having a draggable slide knob. The Office Action on page 5 argues that Ohkura teaches sliders and slide knobs at FIG. 10, item 100X2. However, as discussed in the Amendment filed November 16, 2007, Applicants disagree that Ohkura’s cursor area 100X2 can be characterized as a slider, since this cursor area always requires users to either click or use arrow keys to set the value of the cursor area, and Ohkura never discloses selecting values for the cursor by sliding a slide knob.

However, even assuming, without admitting, that Ohkura’s cursor area 100X2 is a slider, Ohkura still does not teach or suggest a “slider having a draggable slide knob,” as recited in claim 1. As pointed out in the Amendment filed November 16, 2007, nowhere in Ohkura’s disclosure are the terms “drag,” “grab,” “pull” ever mentioned, nor is any equivalent concept ever described. The Office Action appears to acknowledge this deficiency of Ohkura, in that the Action never alleges that Ohkura teaches a draggable slide knob, nor does it identify any portion of Ohkura describing an item corresponding to a draggable slide knob.

Clark, Jr., at FIG. 8 and col. 8, ll. 25-30, describes “slide bars” for setting hour and minute values for the duration and completion time of a computer software process. However, even assuming, without admitting, that these “slide bars” contain draggable slide knobs, Clark, Jr. does not disclose or even suggest a slider having a draggable slide knob that “corresponds to an aspect of programming content,” or which “comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs,” as recited in claim 1. In fact, Clark, Jr. is entirely unrelated to displaying electronic programming guide data, programming content, or content-related characteristics of broadcast programs. Accordingly, neither Ohkura nor Clark, Jr., alone or in combination, teaches or suggests “displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs,” as recited in claim 1.

Independent claims 3, 7, and 9 have also been amended to recite displaying “one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs.” Therefore, for similar reasons to those discussed above regarding claim 1, amended claims 3, 7, and 9 are patentable over the cited references. Dependent claims 11, 12, 27, and 30 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims, as well as based on the additional features recited therein.

Claims 26 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkura, in view of Clark, Jr., and further in view of the U.S. Patent No. 5,559,301 (Bryan). Notwithstanding the merits of this rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 26 and 29 for the purpose of expediting prosecution. The rejection of claims 26 and 29 is thus rendered moot.

New Claims

Applicants have added new dependent claims 31-39 to clarify and more fully claim the invention. No new matter has been added. While Applicants note that new claims 31-39 have not been rejected, the following remarks are submitted in the interest of expediting prosecution.

New claims 31 and 36 each recite, “wherein at least one of the programming content sliders corresponds to a genre slider with a draggable genre slide knob,” and new claims 32 and 37 each recite, “wherein one of the programming content sliders corresponds one of an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob, or a director slider with a draggable director slide knob.” As discussed above in reference to claim 1, none of the cited references discloses or suggests a slider with a draggable actor slide knob corresponding to an aspect of programming content or a slider comprising an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs. Thus, the references also do not disclose or suggest a “genre slider,” “actor slider,” or “director slider,” as recited in these new claims. Accordingly, new claims 31, 32, 36, and 37 are allowable for at least this additional reason.

New claims 33 and 38 each recite, “wherein the method further comprises updating the display of a second programming content slider ... based on changed value of the draggable slide knob of the first programming content slider.” Claims 34 and 39 depend respectively from claims 33 and 38 and further recite, “an actor slider or a director slider which is updated in response to the drag of the slide knob of [a] genre slider to display only actor values or director values that are associated with the changed value of the genre slider.” Support for these additional features can be found, for example, on page 15, lines 16-20 of the instant specification as originally filed. None of the cited references discloses or suggests a programming content slider that is updated based on a change to another programming content slider. Accordingly, new claims 33, 34, 38, and 39 are allowable for at least this additional reason.

(Conclusion and signature block follow on next page.)

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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